

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/707,891

Examiner

Toan D Nguyen

Applicant(s)

KUROBE ET AL

Art Unit

2665

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/24/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3-9, 12-16 and 19-21 are renumbered 1-15, respectively.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 11 August 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                              |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 3, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

managing, at second transmission device, an elapse of the total frame time of the subsequent data frames by using the detected transmission timer value and managing an elapse of a time period by using a predetermined initial value when no transmission timer value is detected, for confirming that said transmission path is available; and transmitting one or more data frames in sequence from said second transmission device when said transmission path is confirmed being available, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 7, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

setting, at said relay device, the transmission timer value for each of the data frames set as the data frames to be transmitted so as to indicates (m-k) frame time;

managing, at said relay device, an elapse of the total frame time of the subsequent data frames by using the detected transmission timer value for confirming that said transmission path is available; and

transmitting one or more data frames in sequence from said relay device to said second transmission device when said transmission path is confirmed being available, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 12, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

said second transmission device, when received one or more of the data frames transmitted from said first transmission device, confirms, by said transmission timer provided therein, that said transmission path is available through an elapse of the time of suspending transmission, and then transmits one or more of the data frames to be transmitted constructed by said transmitting frame constructing portion in sequence, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 15, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

said relay device, when received one or more of the data frames transmitted from said first transmission device, confirms, by said transmission timer provided therein, that said transmission path is available through an elapse of the time of suspending transmission, and then transmits one or more of the data frames to be transmitted constructed by said second transmitting frame constructing portion to said second transmission device in sequence, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 19, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

when received one or more data frames, confirms, by said transmission timer, that said transmission path is available through an elapse of the time of suspending transmission, and then transmits one or more of the data frames to be transmitted constructed by said transmitting frame constructing portion in sequence, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Regarding claim 21, the prior art fails to teach a combination of the steps of:

when received one or more data frames transmitted from said first transmission device, confirms, by said transmission timer, that said transmission path is available

through an elapse of the time of suspending transmission, and then transmits one or more of the data frames to be transmitted constructed by said transmitting frame constructing portion to said second transmission device in sequence, in the specific combination as recited in the claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Toan D Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3153. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00AM-4:30PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Huy Vu can be reached on 571-272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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*Manu. Phan*  
MAN U. PHAN  
PRIMARY EXAMINER